

AUDOBON, PA—On Monday, April 20, 2009, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) visited Saint Gabriel's Hall in Audubon, Pa., to speak with staff and administrators. Saint Gabriel's, a division of Catholic Social Services of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and directed by the De La Salle Christian Brothers, is a non-profit social service agency that provides care and services to at-risk youth. The Congressman discussed the government's economic recovery efforts and the vital support the economic stimulus bill provides government and community services.

"The work we're doing in Congress translates into real benefit for our communities and the organizations that serve them," said Congressman Sestak. "The Recovery Act, which I supported, contains many provisions that will have an immediate, positive impact on our community organizations. Also, in March I held my second Business Procurement Summit, this time with a strong focus on the stimulus bill, to put our municipal governments and community organizations in direct contact with the federal agencies that will administer funding to ensure that these organizations get the support they need during these challenging economic times."

Among the many provisions in H.R. 1, The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, are included:

\$3.95 billion for job training including State formula grants for adult, dislocated worker, and youth programs (including \$1.2 billion to create up to one million summer jobs for youth).

Community Services Block Grants - \$42.6 million to local community action agencies for services to the growing numbers of low-income families hurt by the economic crisis, such as housing and mortgage counseling, jobs skills training, food pantry assistance, as well as benefits outreach and enrollment.

HOME Investment Partnerships: enable state and local government, in partnership with community-based organizations, to acquire, construct, and rehabilitate affordable housing and provide rental assistance to poor families. Total Cost: \$2.25 Billion.

Neighborhood Stabilization: Funding to help local governments and communities purchase and rehabilitate foreclosed, vacant properties in order to create more affordable housing and reduce

neighborhood blight. Total Cost: \$2 billion.

Community Development Block Grants: \$1 billion for community and economic development projects including housing and services for those hit hard by tough economic times. That in selecting projects to be funded, recipients shall give priority to projects that can award contracts based on bids within 120 days from the date the funds are made available to the recipients.

Emergency Food and Shelter: \$100 million to help local community organizations provide food, shelter, and support services to the nation's hungry, homeless, and people in economic crisis including one-month utility payments to prevent service cut-off and one-month rent or mortgage assistance to prevent evictions or help people leave shelters. Funds are distributed by formula based on unemployment and poverty rates.

For over a century, Saint Gabriel's System has been serving troubled youth in the spirit of St. John Baptist de La Salle. On November 3, 1898, in response to an invitation from Archbishop Patrick John Ryan, the Christian Brothers assumed the mission of caring for and educating poor, young wayward boys, along with the responsibility of administering the Philadelphia Protectorate for Boys, later to become known as Saint Gabriel's Hall, located in Audubon, Pennsylvania. In 1968, independent living in a community-based setting was inaugurated with the establishment of a Group Home Program. Thereafter, in 1972, the first day treatment program operated by Saint Gabriel's System was opened and in 1974 our second such program, De La Salle Vocational opened its doors in Bucks County. In 1991, an outpatient counseling program for sex offenders, the DelStar program, was established and, later that same year, De La Salle Aftercare broke new ground as the first component of Saint Gabriel's System to serve females. In 1996, the Victims of Crime program became the first program to serve clients not committed to us by the court. Two years later, in 1998, Saint Gabriel's System announced the creation of Brother Rousseau Academy, a community-based extended day treatment program for both male and female preadolescents. Also in 1998, the Mitchell Program, a farm-based, short-term rehabilitative residential program, was opened at Saint Gabriel's Hall. In 1999, Saint Gabriel's System began an anger management/conflict resolution program for young men and women, A Better Way.

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on*

*Terrorism.” He served as President Clinton’s Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.*

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